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GOVERNMENT RELATIONS & PUBLIC POLICY

Your weekly dose of health care policy

CONGRESSIONAL

Labor, HHS Funding Bill Passes Out of Committee

Yesterday, the House Appropriations Committee passed its [FY 2020 Labor, Health, and Human Services \(HHS\), Education, and Related Agencies funding bill](#) along party lines. Debate on the appropriations bill included failed amendments and disagreement on anti-abortion provisions and items related to Affordable Care Act implementation. The Committee will continue to pass its various funding bills, but they are unlikely to be agreed upon by the Senate, who has not started work on their FY 2020 appropriations at this time.

House Passes Two Drug Pricing Bills

Yesterday, the House of Representatives passed two bipartisan bills aimed at reducing drug pricing. The [Orange Book Transparency Act \(H.R. 1503\)](#) would provide better information on brand drug and patent exclusivity and the [Purple Book Continuity Act \(H.R. 1520\)](#) would update the Food and Drug Administration's (FDA) book on patents and exclusivity for biologic medicines. These bills are not expected to generate much in savings.

ADMINISTRATION

Drug Price Transparency Rule Finalized

Yesterday, the Department of Health and Human Services finalized its drug pricing transparency [rule](#) requiring

MACRA HIGHLIGHTS

Participating in a commercial alternative payment model? CMS has a new [guide](#) for submitting these other payer APMS for Advanced APM determinations.

HEALTH CARE ACTIVITIES ON THE HILL

House Veterans' Affairs Committee

5/15 at 2:00pm: Health Subcommittee [hearing](#) on Fiscal Year 2020 Department of Veterans Affairs Budget Request for the Veterans Health Administration

House Ways & Means Committee

5/16 at 10:00am: Full Committee [hearing](#) on The Economic and Health Consequences of Climate Change

5/17 at 10:00am: Full

manufacturers to include drug prices in TV advertisements for drugs with a wholesale acquisition cost equal to or greater than \$35 for a month's supply or the usual course of therapy. This [rule](#) will go into effect 60 days after it is published in the federal register.

Committee [hearing](#) on
Overcoming Racial Disparities
and Social Determinants in the
Maternal Mortality Crisis

In Memory

Robert Pear,
Authoritative New
York Times Reporter
on Health Care, Dies
at 69.

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